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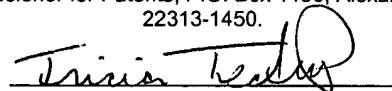
PATENT

Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 08442.0002.02000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Joseph C. CAUTHEN et al.) Group Art Unit: 3738
Application No.: 10/075,615) Examiner: U. Chattopadhyay
Filed: February 15, 2002)
For: SPINAL DISC ANNULUS) Confirmation No.: 2841
RECONSTRUCTION METHOD)
AND SPINAL DISC ANNULUS)
STENT)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services "Express Mail Label EV 755141038 US Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 on October 10, 2006 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Tricia Tedesco

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents on the attached listing. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p).

Copies of the listed foreign and non-patent literature documents are attached.

Copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

10/16/2006 EFLORES 00000098 060916 10075615
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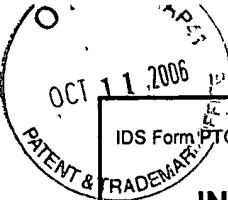
Dated: October 11, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By:

Eric P. Raciti
Reg. No. 41475


 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
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First Named Inventor	Joseph C. CAUTHEN
Art Unit	3738
Confirmation No.	2841
Examiner Name	D. Isabella

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US 1,995,970	03-26-1935	Dorough	
		US 2,609,347	09-02-1952	Wilson	
		US 2,653,917	09-29-1953	Hammon	
		US 2,659,935	11-24-1953	Hammon	
		US 2,664,366	12-29-1953	Wilson	
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		US 3,874,388	04-01-1975	King et al.	
		US 3,875,595	04-08-1975	Froning	
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		US 4,006,747	02-08-1977	Kronenthal et al.	
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		US 4,502,161	03-05-1985	Wall	
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		US 4,736,746	04-12-1988	Anderson	
		US 4,743,260	05-10-1988	Burton	

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	US 4,781,190	11-01-1988	Lee	
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	US 4,837,285	06-06-1989	Berg et al.	
	US 4,844,088	07-04-1989	Kambin	
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	US 4,904,261	02-27-1990	Dove et al.	
	US 4,911,718	03-27-1990	Lee et al.	
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	US 5,035,716	07-30-1991	Downey	
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	US 5,354,736	10-11-1994	Bhatnagar
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	US 5,391,182	02-21-1995	Chin
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US 5,470,337	11-28-1995	Moss
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U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

	US 5,634,931	06-03-1997	Kugel	
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	US 5,730,744	03-24-1998	Justin et al.	
	US 5,735,875	04-07-1998	Bonutti	
	US 5,736,746	04-07-1998	<u>Furutoh</u>	
	US 5,743,917	04-28-1998	Saxon	
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	US 5,752,964	05-19-1998	Mericle	
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U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

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U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

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U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

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